

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 09021 01 OF 02 281331Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 AID-20 DPW-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AGR-20 EB-11

ACDA-19 OMB-01 AF-10 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 (ADP) W

----- 078741

O R 281140Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2766

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 09021 01 OF 02 281331Z

DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 9021

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - AUGUST 28, 1973

1. GENERAL. THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION THIS WEEK WAS ON THE MILITARY SCENE AS KHMER INSURGNT FORCES RENEWED THEIR OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES WITH A SERIES OF ATTACKS AGAINST KEY LINES OF COMMUNICATION INCLUDING ROUTES 1, 4 AND 5. ROUTES 4 AND 5 REMAIN CLOSED BUT FANK COUNTERATTACKS ALONG RTE 1 SUCCEEDED IN REOPENING THE ROAD AND INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES ON THE ENEMY. THE ISOLATED PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG CHAM MEANWHILE REMAINS UNDER PRESSURE. RENEWED BARGAINING BETWEEN THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES ON A CONTINGENCY REPLACEMENT CABINET FOR THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR FAILED TO PRODUCE ANY CLEAR-CUT POLITICAL RESULTS AND THE SITUATION THUS REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. SIHANOUK TOLD AN AFP REPORTED THAT PEKING THAT THE DRV HAS REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE KHMER INSURGENTS WITH DIRECT ARMS AID BUT ADDED THAT FIGHTING WOULD CONTINUE NEVERTHELESS. THE GKR IS SEEKING ADDITIONAL RICE FROM THAILAND AND JAPAN TO FILL THE GAP UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF U.S. PL 480 RICE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

2. POLITICAL (INTERNAL). AT PRESIDENT LON NOL'S INSISTENCE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 09021 01 OF 02 281331Z

THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES THIS WEEK RESUMED DISCUSSIONS IN AN EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF A POST-IN TAM CABINET. DEEP-SEATED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS HAVE PREVENTED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD THIS GOAL, HOWEVER. IT THUS APPEARS THAT THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN IN PLACE FOR THE TIME BEING ALTHOUGH POLITICAL TENSIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMY,

LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH PRESSING NATIONAL PROBLEMS. THE DEMOCRATS MEANWHILE CONTINUE TO REFUSE ANY COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER PARTIES AND THEIR BEST-KNOWN ALLY, FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN, FINDING THE MOMENT UNPROFITOUS FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY, HAS MADE PLANS TO RETURN TO PARIS ON AUGUST 29.

3. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 27, SISOWATH SIRIK MATAK, MEMBER OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND COUSIN OF SIHANOUK, RELEASED AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRINCE CALLING ON HIM TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT WHICH HE SUPPOSEDLY LEADS IS REALLY A CAMOUFLAGE FOR VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION AGAINST CAMBODIA AND THAT HE IS ONLY BEING USED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. THIS ADMISSION HAVING BEEN MADE, THE LETTER CONCLUDES, SIHANOUK SHOULD RETIRE FROM THE SCENE AS A TRUE GESTURE OF PATRIOTISM. OVER THE WEEKEND PRESIDENT LON NOL MADE A PAIR OF RADION ADDRESSES ECHOING MANY OF SIRIK MATAK'S POINTS CONCERNING THE WEAKNESSES AND INCONSISTENCIES IN SIHANOUK'S POSITION. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, BOTH MINISTER OF INFORMATION SUM CHHUM AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LONG BORET PUBLICLY DENIED A UPI REPORT THAT HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD ASKED THE U.S. TO REMOVE MARSHAL LON NOL AND INVITE SIHANOUK TO RETURN TO POWER. THEY DENIED ALSO THAT THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF SIHANOUK AMONG THE CAMBODIAN POPULATION.

4. THE COUNCIL OF WAR TOOK ITS THIRD IMPORTANT ACTION WHEN IT RETIRED GENDARMERIE NATIONAL MAJOR SUOS PANN FROM THE SERVICE AND TRANSFERRED HIM TO THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR FURTHER PUNISHMENT. SUOS PANN KILLED A BRITISH EMPLOYEE OF A FOREIGN FIRM IN A SHOOTING EPISODE AT A PHNOM PENH BAR.

5. POLITICAL (EXTERNAL). LON NOL SPECIAL EMISSARY MG SAK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 09021 01 OF 02 281331Z

SUTSAKHAN VISITED MANILA AND MET WITH PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MARCOS AND FOREIGN MINISTER ROMULO. SAK SUTSAKHAN ASKED THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GKR, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNGA; TO HELP BRING PRESSURE ON THE KHMER INSURGENTS TO NEGOTIATE; AND TO ENCOURAGE ASEAN SUPPORT FOR THE GKR. THE PHILIPPINE REACTION TO THESE OVERTURES WAS REPORTEDLY SYMPATHETIC.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND IN A DECLARATION OF POLICY ON CAMBODIA HAS STATED THAT IT "WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE KHMER PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE AND SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" AND THAT "ALL THE PROBLEMS BESETTING THE KHMER REPUBLIC STEM FROM THREATS BY NORTH VIETNAM". THE DECLARATION ADDED THAT NO THAI COMBAT TROOPS WILL BE SENT TO OPERATE IN CAMBODIA.

7. GRUNK/FUNK. AFP GAVE USLO PEKING DETAILS NOT IN ITS PUBLISHED AUGUST 17 INTERVIEW WITH SIGANOUK. THE PRINCE TOLD AFP THAT HE ASKED DRV PREMIER PHAM VAN DONG TO PROVIDE THE INSURGENTS WITH DIRECT ARMS SUPPLIES BUT DONG DEMURRED BECAUSE THE DRV WAS NO LONGER AT WAR. THE DRV PREMIER DID AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT INSURGENTS COULD CARRY BACK SUPPLIES FROM NVA-HELD AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM IF THEY COULD REACH THEM. THE PRINCE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE LULL IN CAMBODIAN FIGHTING IS MERELY DUE TO INSURGENT REGROUPING AND FIGHTING WOULD CONTINUE IN THE RAINY SEASON (SIC) ACCORDING TO THE AFP SOURCE.

8. A LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, QUOTES THE PRINCE AS BELIEVING PHNOM PENH WOULD FALL BEFORE THE END OF THE DRY SEASON IN MAY 1974. HE ALSO NOTED C
E E E E E E E

MRN: 1973PHNOM 009021 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000002 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX
FILE; TELEGRAM TEXT FOR THIS SEGMENT IS UNAVAILABLE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM09021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: CORE1
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973089/aaaaagoo.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: ADS TEXT UNRETRIEVABLE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 20 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Jul-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <31-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT - AUGUST 28, 1973
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MOPS, CB
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK CANBERRA COPENHAGEN JAKARTA HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005